(b) if so, the number of airports out of this in Madhya Pradesh proposed to be upgraded to international level and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of projects proposed in Madhya Pradesh are pending for clearance with Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Upgradation of airports into International airports in the country including those in Madhya Pradesh is contingent on various factors such as requirement of airline operators, traffic demand, availability of land, customs, immigration, plant and animal quarantine facilities etc. and is considered from time to time taking into account various factors involved.

(b) The infrastructure facilities at the three airports at Bhopal, Indore and Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh are proposed to be upgraded. Although, declaration as International airports will depend on factors mentioned at (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Permission to Jet Airways for US Operation

1495. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Policy on Civil Aviation is being drafted/under consideration of Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that questions of permitting domestic private airlines to operate globally will be addressed in the new policy;

(c) if so, what are the reasons that Government have permitted Jet Airways for operating to USA and UK even before the finalisation of the aviation policy;

(d) whether US Government have not allowed Jet Airways to land there on account of dubious track record of the airlines; and

(e) if so, at what level the decision to operate Jet to USA was granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government decided on 29.12.2004 to allow the private scheduled carriers with continuous experience of 5 years operations in domestic sector and having a fleet size of 20 aircraft to operate on international routes except to Gulf countries to UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Only two private scheduled carriers which fulfilled these criteria have been permitted to operate on international routes. Keeping in view the traffic demand and availability of bilateral traffic rights, Jet Airways on their request, have been permitted to operate to USA and UK.

(d) and (e) Jet Airways was designated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to operate to/from USA as it fulfilled all necessary requirements to operate on international routes. However, the matter regarding denial of permission by US authorities to Jet Airways to operate to/from USA is under examination by the Ministry of External Affairs in consultation with the concerned agencies.

Procurement of Gadgets for safe landing of Aircrafts

1496. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is shopping for latest gadgets and equipment across the world that help aircrafts to land and take of in all weather and climatic conditions and round the clock; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 43 numbers of Instrument Landing System (ILS) have already been provided at selected Indian airports including Cat III B ILS at Delhi. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated Global Tender for new ILS/ replacement of old ILS for airports at Lilabari, Silchar, Kolkata, Gaya, Delhi and Cochin. AAI has also plans for procurement of two more ILS for Mumbai and Chennai airports.